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8,Fine.
 9,Gentle showers.
 10, 17,Fine dry days.
 18, 20,Dark, with light rain.

During the month of February, the Thermometer during the morning never higher than 44, and was not below 39°. On the 2d and 4th of March, it was as high as 50, and on the 20th it was as high as 51, and it has always been up above 36, at 8 o'clock, although slight hoar frost appears about sun-rise.

The Barometer was on the 22d of February, 28.5, on the 26th 28.6; the rest of the time it has varied from 29, which it was on the 25th of February, to the height of 30.4, which it was on the 12, 13, 14, and 15th of March.

The wind has been observed S.E. 4...S.W. 14...S. 2...W. 3...N.W. 3...N.E. 5 times, so that southerly has been much the most prevailing.

MEDICAL REMARK.

ABUSUS OPTIMI, PESSIMUM.

There is a set of people in the East, particularly in Egypt, who have long possessed the art of rendering the bites of the most poisonous serpents perfectly harmless, and who are accustomed to walk, in religious processions, with numbers of vipers coiling about their necks, arms, and bodies, playing with them all the time as with fillets of ribbon, and mocking their fury. These magicians, or physicians, are often of the female sex, and their art is said to consist in breaking the teeth of the animal, and, by that means, dispersing the poison collected at their sockets, in a small bag, or follicle. Happily this island is exempted, by the kindness of nature, from the necessity of such practitioners. But if we be free from venomous reptiles, and animal poisons, there is a prodigious number of persons, of all descriptions, ages, and sexes, who are fond of playing with the most active mineral poisons, and children even on the breast, are taught to swallow them, from time to time, till one would think they used sweet mercury for a nourishment, rather than for the cure of a disease.

CALOMEL is the popular poison at present; an active and excellent remedy, when used in proper circumstances, and at proper intervals; but the abuse of the best medicines is, in no instance, more remarkable, as the wan and woeful visage of children in the higher ranks of life, often testify. A medicine, in one or two instances, works an unexpected cure; if the patients be people of distinction, the medicine acquires celebrity, and takes the lead of its shop-mates. Calomel, a milder and more mitigated form of that most active mineral poison, Corrosive Sublimate, is at present the fashionable drug, as Bilious is, and has been, for some time past, the fashionable character of disease.

Although this medicine may certainly by its action on the biliary ducts, be well adapted to relieve from an excess of bile, and in consequence be justly entitled to the appellation of a Chologogue, yet the frequent recurrence of this very stimulus, very certainly tends of itself to the increased secretion of bile, and adds to the permanence of the very complaint for which it operates as a temporary relief. And thus, as in all cases of habitual stimulus, the bilious habit is often created, instead of being cured. Indeed the prevalent tendency of the practice of physic to the general, and indiscriminate use of purgatives, in almost all diseases, or inclination to disease, lays a foundation, we fear for weakness in the visceral organs, of itself the proximate cause of many disorders. The excessive quantities of Calomel which have been administered even to children, in several complaints, as we find related, from time to time, in our periodical publications, are indeed so surprising, that we are really glad to find in general, such powerful prescriptions are reserved for cases almost always found desperate, and incurable, and thus less doubt is liable to be entertained that the disease, and not the drug, produced the mortal event. For the honour of physic I shall not recount the quantities of this single medicine which have been prescribed. And all that I wish to observe is, that Calomel, in small doses, is very usefully employed as an occasional stimulus to the excretories of the liver, as upon the whole of those of the alimentary canal, but that the perpetual use of it, particularly in large doses, often

creates those diseases of the abdomen, for which it would, if well administered, at proper intervals, have proved a cure; and that a deep and lasting mercurial impression on the system, should it happen to take place in the use of this medicine, aggravates the symptoms of that chronic debility and want of tone in the moving fibres, which is the prevalent cause of disease.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR APRIL, 1811.

The Moon is on the meridian at 52 minutes past 6, being then in the line between the 2d of the Twins, and the 1st of the lesser Dog, but nearer to the latter star. At 9 she is 34 degrees, 16 minutes from the first of the Lion.

On the 5th she is on the meridian at 42 min. past 9, being directly under the body of the Lion. The 4th and 8th being considerably above her to the east of the meridian, and the 1st, 3d, and 6th at a greater distance from the meridian westward. We distinguish the 2d of the Lion to the east of the 4th and 8th, below which is the 2d of the Virgin, to which star she is directing her course, at 9 she is $40\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ from the 1st of the Virgin, and 50 degrees 38 minutes from the 2d of the Twins.

On the 10th she rises nearly with the 1st of the Balance, and passes before midnight the line before the 1st and 2d of the constellation, being by much the nearest to the former star.

On the 15th she rises in the morning over the Small Stars in the head of the Archer, her distance from Saturn being now considerably increased.

On the 20th she passes the ecliptick in her descending node, but, for obvious reasons, without an eclipse.

On the 25th, we perceive the Moon again in a very conspicuous situation, in the head of the Bull, above Aldebaran, Jupiter being on the other side, but at a greater distance from this star. The horizon, from about west to a little beyond west-north-west, will be splendid about an hour and a half after sun-set. At nine she is 41 degrees, 4 minutes, from the 2d of the Twins.

On the 30th, she is seen in the barren space between the Crab and the Lion, just above the two first of the former constellations, being thus between the small stars in the head of the Lion, and those in the head of the Hydra, but much nearer to the latter Star. At 9 she is 67 deg. 56 min. from the 1st of the Virgin.

Mercury is in his superior conjunction on the 10th, and of course will be too near the Sun to be visible before that time, except by the very keen observer; and not by others till towards the end of the month. The Moon passes him on the 23d.

Venus is a morning star, but though at a considerable distance from the Sun, she is not in a favourable position; for besides being in the 11th sign, she is on the first near her descending node, and her latitude of course is, after a few days, increasing to the south of the ecliptick. Her motion is direct about 24° , being at first to the west of the 8th of the water-bearer, and her path lies through a dreary region. On the 1st she is about 10 degrees above the horizon, and on the 25th about 8° at Sunrise. The Moon passes her on the 19th.

Mars is on the meridian at a quarter past 3, on the morning of the 1st, and at 48 min. past 2 on the 20th. His motion is direct to the 20th, when he is stationary, and of course during the whole month it is very slow, the change in the triangle formed by him, the 2d of the Scorpion, and Antares, varying little each night, particularly about the 20th. He rises on the 1st a quarter before midnight, and every night earlier, the Moon passes him on the 12th.

Jupiter is on the meridian at 10 min. past 3 in the afternoon of the 1st, and 19 minutes past 2 of the 19th, of course his duration above the horizon after sun-set decreases very fast every night. On the 1st he sets near 11 o'clock. His motion is direct through $64\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, being 1st between the Pleiades and the most western of the Hyades, and he passes the line between the Pleiades and the Aldebaran. As at the end of the month, Mercury, Jupiter, Aldebaran, and Orion, grace the western horizon, the most inattentive will feel their admiration excited in their evening walks. The moon passes Jupiter on the 25th.